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HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner: A. Mehta

Group Art Unit: 1638

In re Application of

Simon MOLLER et al.

Serial No. 09/439,534

Filed: 12 November 1999

INDUCIBLE SITE-SPECIFIC For:

> RECOMBINATION FOR THE **ACTIVATION AND REMOVAL**

OF TRANSGENES IN TRANSGENIC PLANTS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action in the form of a restriction requirement mailed 23 March 2001, Applicants elect to have the claims of Group V (claims 39-47, 59, 60 and 72) examined. This election is made with traverse.

## REMARKS

Applicants do not disagree with the division of the claims of Group VII from the remainder of the claims, but Applicants urge that the claims of Groups I-VI should be considered to be a single invention and it is requested that all of the claims of Groups I-VI (claims 1-62 and 68-73) be examined together.

The claims of Groups I and II are especially closely related to each other, the claims of Groups III and IV are especially closely related to each other, and the claims of Groups V and VI are especially closely related to each other.

The claims of both Groups I and II are illustrated by Figure 1. Looking at the language of claim 1 (part of Group I), the first gene is represented by GVG of Figure 1, the second gene is represented by CRE and is inducible because of the 6xUAS element, the constitutive promoter is

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35S, the third gene is LUC, and the two recombination sites are the Lox sites. In terms of claim 11 (Group II), the inducible promoter is 6xUAS, the first gene is CRE, the constitutive promoter is 35S, the two recombination sites are the Lox sites, and the second gene is LUC. These two sets of claims can be considered subsets of each other since each does not require all the elements of the other.

Similarly the claims of Groups III and IV are very closely related to each other and the claims of both groups are illustrated by Figure 3. Examining the language of claim 20 (Group III), the first gene is GVG, the second gene is CRE, the constitutive promoter is 35S, the third gene is LUC and the recombination sites are the Lox sites. Claim 30 (Group IV) is represented by Figure 3 in that the inducible promoter is 6xUAS, the first gene is CRE, the constitutive promoter is 35S, the recombination sites are the Lox sites, and the second gene is LUC. Again the two sets of claims can be considered subsets of each other.

The claims of Groups V and VI are similarly related and are illustrated by Figure 4. Considering claim 39 (Group V), the gene encoding a transcription factor is GVG, the marker gene is KAN, the inducible gene encoding a recombinase is CRE, and the two recombinase sites are the two Lox sites. For claim 48 (Group VI), the marker gene is KAN, the inducible gene encoding a recombinase is CRE, and the recombination sites are the Lox sites. In fact, the only difference between claims 39 and 48 is that claim 39 includes a requirement for a gene encoding a transcription factor. Claim 39 could in fact be drafted as a claim dependent from claim 48, the claim being "The vector of claim 48 further comprising a gene encoding a transcription factor wherein said recombination sites flank said gene encoding a transcription factor, said marker gene and said inducible gene." This illustrates the very close connection between independent claim 39 (Group V) and independent claim 48 (Group VI).

In addition to the closeness of each pair of groups (I and II, III and IV, and V and VI), it is further urged that each group is related to the other groups. All of the claims involve as part of the inventive concept the use of promoters and recombinases to cut a portion of a vector to effect a desirable result, e.g., expression of gene which was not expressed prior to inducing the system or the deletion of a gene which is no longer desired. The concept of using promoters and recombinases is a constant throughout all of the claims.

In view of the above arguments, it is urged that minimally the claims of Group VI should be examined with the claims of Group V and it is further urged that the claims of Groups I-IV as well as VI should be examined together with the claims of Group V.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7 May 2001

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